

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6196

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 0893

KUWAIT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF IZ TU MY

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISITS TO TURKEY AND IRAQ

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 0425 (NOTAL)

(B) KUALA LUMPUR 0081 (NOTAL), (C) KUWAIT 0747 (NOTAL)

1. MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN IS SCHEDULED TO
DEPART FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, FOR VISITS TO TURKEY AND IRAQ.
ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, TRADE AND CULTURE
AGREEMENTS WILL BE SIGNED THAT WILL BE SIMILAR TO THOSE
SIGNED ON DATUK HUSSEIN'S VISITS TO CAIRO AND TRIPOLI LAST
MONTH. DATUK HUSSEIN WILL BE ACCCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE,
DATIN SUHAILA, FOREIGN MINISTER TENGKU DATUK AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN,
DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK
HAJI OTHMAN ABDULLAH, AND A TEAM OF OFFICIALS FROM

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THE TREASURY, ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT, AND MFA.

FIRST STOP WILL BE ISTANBUL, WHERE HE WILL BE
RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNOR, KAMAL SENTURK AND
SPEND TWO DAYS, FOLLOWING WHICH HE WILL TRAVEL TO
ANKARA FOR TALKS WITH HIS COUNTERPART, SULEYMAN
DEMIREL, AND A COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT FAHRI S.
KORUTURK. DATUK HUSSEIN WILL DEPART FEB 14 AND,

ACCORDING REF C, OVERNIGHT IN KUWAIT BEFORE PROCEEDING
TO BAGHDAD FOR TALKS WITH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
VICE-CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN. NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY "BERNAMA"
REPORTS VISIT TO IRAQ WILL CENTER ON EDUCATION AND
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, MALAYSIA HOPING TO SEND
STUDENTS TO IRAQ FOR TRAINING IN PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY
AND MANAGEMENT AND OFFERING IN TURN TO TRAIN IRAQI
PERSONNEL IN AGRICULTURAL AND LAND DEVELOPMENT.
DATUK HUSSEIN IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO KUALA LUMPUR
FEB 18.

2. COMMENT: AS NOTED REFS A AND B, VISITS ARE PART OF
SERIES INVOLVING MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES. MALAYSIA
ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO MAINTENANCE OF
CLOSE TIES WITH MIDDLE EASTERN MUSLIM COUNTRIES,
WHICH ARE SEEN AS ALLIES IN VARIOUS THIRD WORLD
INITIATIVES AS WELL AS SOURCES OF CAPITAL AND
PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY, AND POTENTIAL MARKETS.
DATUK HUSSEIN REPORTEDLY HAS TURKISH ANCESTRY AND
VISIT TO TURKEY HAS ADDED SIGNIFICANCE FROM THAT
STANDPOINT.
UNDERHILL

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